

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Carl Woodruff
Hydraulic Engineer, Great Lakes H&H Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
(313) 226-2202
e-mail: Carl.L.Woodruff@usace.army.mil

LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOW CONDITIONS

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under the authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 1,750 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) (61.8 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of February. This is the outflow recommended by the regulation plan for the month of February and is a decrease from the January outflow of 1,910 m^3/s (67.5 tcfs).

The February outflow will be released by discharging about 1,654 m^3/s (58.4 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys rapids. The gate setting of the control structure will be maintained at the existing setting equivalent to one-half gate open (four gates open 25 cm, or about 10 inches each). There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1 that supplies the Fishery Remedial Works.

The January water supplies to Lake Superior and to Lakes Michigan-Huron were near their record lows. This past month the level of Lake Superior declined by 12 centimeters (cm) (5 inches), whereas it usually declines by 6 centimeters (cm) (2 inches) in January. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 22 cm (9 inches) below its long-term average beginning of February level and about 7 cm (3 inches) below the level recorded last year. The level of Lake Superior is now 10 cm (4 inches) below its chart datum level. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron also declined by more than its usual amount in January. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is about 55 cm (22 inches) below its long-term average beginning of February level, and is now about 17 cm (7 inches) below the level recorded last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron's level is now 22 cm (9 inches) below its chart datum level, but is still 18 cm (7 inches) above its record low beginning-of-February level. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Colonel Mark A. Roncoli, Commander, Chicago District, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the Alternate United States Board Member. Mr. Peter Yee has been appointed as the Board Member for Canada.

For further information please contact Carl Woodruff as indicated above.

The Internet homepage at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/> provides access to additional information.